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EVERGREENS AND BUSHES TO
CONCEAL UGLY FOUNDATIONS

Just because there's no money to spare for fixing up the home surroundings, there is no reason why they should remain ugly and unbeautiful. Perhaps some of the men and boys in the family have a little more time than usual this spring. Instead of thinking too much about the bad luck of being out of work, why not urge them to consider this a good chance to get some of the things done for which nobody had any time in busy seasons?

It takes muscle and time, but not money, to go into the woods and dig up a few evergreens and other bushes that will screen the base of a house and make it much more attractive in appearance. Again, in most communities where flowers are loved, flower seeds and cuttings are regularly saved and exchanged, and if the flower bed is once spaded up and made ready, the housewife or the girls in the family will take care of planting seeds that will later compensate a hundredfold for the slight trouble of starting them.

Another easy and inexpensive way to improve the exterior of the home is to make a small rock garden. This is especially effective where the ground slopes away from the foundations. Let the small boys and small girls who love to build with rocks help arrange the rock garden, and also go to the woods with you to hunt for ferns, maidenhair, ivy, moss, wintergreen and partridge berries, myrtle, tiny evergreens, wild columbine and blue bells, and anything else that has a fair chance of doing well in the cracks and crannies between the rocks. There will be something available almost every month up to frost time.

The pictures taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture show a very simple farm home before and after planting as recommended by the county extension agent. No money was spent for the shapely cedar bushes, barberry and other shrubs that conceal the bare base of the house. They came from nearby woodland which was the better for losing some of its undergrowth. The step to the porch has been repaired, the toppling useless posts done away with, and flat stones laid down to make a front walk. Field stones have also been used to define the shrubbery border. Much has been accomplished by the effective planting which cost nothing at all.

